

U.S. VETERANS HOSPITAL, JEFFERSON BARRACKS, MEDICAL  
OFFICER IN CHARGE RESIDENCE  
(Veterans Administration Facility, Jefferson Barracks, Building No. 28)  
(Veterans Administration Hospital, Jefferson Barracks)  
(Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center, Jefferson Barracks  
Division)  
VA Medical Center, Jefferson Barracks Division  
1 Jefferson Barracks Drive  
Saint Louis  
Independent City  
Missouri

HABS MO-1943-O  
*MO-1943-O*

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

REDUCED COPIES OF MEASURED DRAWINGS

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY  
National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
1849 C Street NW  
Washington, DC 20240-0001

## HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

### U.S. VETERANS HOSPITAL, JEFFERSON BARRACKS, MEDICAL OFFICER IN CHARGE RESIDENCE (BUILDING 28)

HABS No. MO-1943-O

- Location:** Building 28, VA Medical Center, 1 Jefferson Barracks Drive,  
St. Louis, Missouri  
USGS Quadrangle Oakville, Missouri  
UTM Coordinates 16 7258162 E 9966034 N
- Date of Construction:** 1929
- Designer:** U.S. Veterans Administration (VA)
- Contractor:** Unknown
- Present Owner:** Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery
- Present Use:** Vacant
- Significance:** The U.S. Veterans Hospital, Jefferson Barracks, was part of an early 1920s effort to build modern hospitals for U.S. military veterans. The Medical Officer in Charge Residence was built in 1929 along with the two Duplex Personnel Buildings (Buildings 27 and 29) to provide on-site housing for higher-ranking employees at the hospital. The Medical Officer in Charge Residence continued to serve as a government dwelling for the hospital director into the 1990s. The facility has been vacant for some time and was recently acquired by the Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery. The residence is scheduled for demolition in the near future, and the site will become part of the national cemetery.
- Project Information:** This project was sponsored and funded by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs as mitigation for the demolition of buildings at the St. Louis VA Medical Center, Jefferson Barracks Division, a property that has been determined eligible for the National Register of Historic Places via consensus determination of eligibility between the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and the Missouri Department of Natural Resources State Historic Preservation Office.

**Description:**

The Medical Officer in Charge Residence (Building 28, hereafter MOC Residence) is a one-story brick masonry dwelling with a hipped asphalt-shingle roof, vinyl siding, and replacement double-hung windows. The house is situated on a grass lawn with trees and faces an asphalt road. The MOC Residence is positioned between two duplexes that date from the same time period as the MOC Residence: Duplex Personnel Building 1 (Building 27), which sits west of the MOC Residence, and Duplex Personnel Building 2 (Building 29), which sits east of the MOC Residence. The interior of the MOC Residence is fairly intact and contains many aspects of the original floor plan and many original interior finishes and features. The house has three bedrooms and three bathrooms, with two full bathrooms on the main floor and one full bathroom in the basement. The MOC Residence is now vacant and in a somewhat deteriorated condition; it is slated for demolition, to make way for the Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery, which will expand onto the sites of this house and the two duplexes.

The facade of the MOC Residence is composed of two gabled bays with a screened-in porch situated in between. The gabled bays each have two double-hung replacement windows, and the gables each contain an arched ventilator and a metal-clad raking cornice with returns. The porch projects out from the gables. Features of the porch include four wood posts and a central bay that is clad in vinyl siding and has a screen door. A set of concrete steps lead up to the screen door, but the rest of the porch foundation is covered over with vinyl siding. The porch shelters a wood double door that serves as the front entrance to the house, and two double-hung replacement windows.

The west wall of the house has a gabled south bay with two replacement double-hung windows, with each gable containing an arched ventilator and a metal-clad raking cornice with returns. The north portion of the west wall features three replacement double-hung windows and a door. The east wall has a gabled south bay identical to the one on the west wall. The north portion of the east wall has two paired double-hung replacement windows.

The rear (north) portion of the house is U-shaped, composed of two gabled wings with a portion of the main block of the house in between. The wings both have gables with arched ventilators and raking cornice with returns. However, the two wings have different arrangements of windows; the west wing has a quadruple composition of replacement windows, while the east wing has two small replacement windows. The center bay of the north wall has a shed-roof porch with vinyl siding, four double-hung replacement windows, and a central nine-light wood door. A chimney rises up above the back porch and is clad in vinyl siding.

The interior of the MOC Residence is fairly intact, with most aspects of the original floor plan maintained and many original interior finishes and features still present. Most rooms

maintain original wood floor moldings, original oak floors, and original plaster walls. The front entrance leads into the living room, which has oak floors, plaster walls, and ceilings, and an original Neoclassical wood fireplace, painted white and flanked by louvered double doors. The double doors lead into a sunroom with plaster walls and vinyl flooring.

The living room also connects to other spaces in the house to the west and east. On the east, the living room opens into a suite of two bedrooms with a bathroom in between. The bedrooms have oak floors and plaster walls. The north bedroom connects to a sunroom with plaster walls, oak floors, and a segmental arched window. On the west side of the living room, a small hallway provides access to two rooms—the hallway opens south into a bedroom with plaster walls and oak floors, and opens on the north side to a dining room with wall and flooring materials similar to those in the living room and bedrooms.

Adjacent to the west bedroom is a full bathroom. Both bathrooms on the main floor have been remodeled and have fixtures and finishes dating to the past forty years. The doorway to the kitchen is on the north end of the dining room; the kitchen has been remodeled in the past thirty years and does not contain any original finishes or cabinets.

The basement has concrete walls and floors and is divided into a series of rooms and corridors. The basement appears to originally have been used for laundry, storage, and possibly as servants' quarters; one of the basement rooms is large enough to have served as a bedroom for a servant, and the basement is equipped with a bathroom that still retains an original sink, bathtub, and toilet.

### **History:**

As part of a campaign of additions and improvements to its Jefferson Barracks hospital facility in the late 1920s, the Veterans Bureau added three residential buildings to the hospital campus: two duplex quarters (Duplex Personnel Buildings 1 and 2 [Building 27 and 29]) and the single-family MOC Residence, which was built to house the hospital director and family. These three buildings allowed five high-ranking hospital officials and their families to live on site. The hospital was at that time located in a fairly remote portion of St. Louis County that had not been heavily developed, aside from the U.S. Army development at Jefferson Barracks, and housing would likely have been difficult to come by in the area. The original 1922-1923 hospital campus had been built with extensive on-campus housing for the hospital's nurses and attendants, so it was logical to add housing for hospital managers and their families.

The three housing buildings were modest one-story facilities grouped close together on a curved drive, surrounded by trees and a grass lawn. For privacy, the site for the buildings was positioned some distance away from the other hospital buildings but was also within easy walking distance of the Main Hospital (Building 1). The buildings had a mix of hipped and gabled roofs, front porches with wood posts and railings, and were constructed

of brick and originally clad on the exterior in stucco, to match the other hospital buildings. The design of the buildings was fairly plain, reflecting Craftsman, Neoclassical Revival, and Colonial Revival stylistic influences. Exterior ornament was minimal and was mostly concentrated in the front porches of each of the buildings. The original six-over-six double-hung wood windows of the buildings would have heightened the traditional Colonial Revival appearance of the facilities. The exterior design of all three residential buildings was highly symmetrical and similar to one another.<sup>1</sup>

The interior of the MOC Residence was a single-family living space with three bedrooms. The house contained a 19'10" x 16'0" living room with wood floors and a fireplace with a wood Neoclassical-style mantel. The kitchen measured 14'10" x 9'9" and had space for a table, range, sink, and a small refrigerator. The kitchen was also equipped with a small built-in cupboard. Next to the kitchen was a 16'0" x 13'6" dining room. Opening into the dining room was a separate pantry space for storing food, located next to the kitchen. Additional storage space was provided by a linen closet located next to the dining room<sup>2</sup>

Of the three bedrooms in the MOC Residence, two had dimensions of 16'10" x 12'10" and the third (rear) bedroom measured 16'0" x 11'8". The bedrooms were each equipped with one small closet. The rear bedroom also had access to a 16'0" x 9'6" sunporch that was labeled on the original floor plans as a sleeping porch. The residence also featured three full bathrooms, which was somewhat unusual for that time period. The east bedroom and the rear bedroom shared a common bathroom, and the west bedroom had its own private bath. A third full bath was located in the basement. The house also had a 24'0" x 10'0" front porch, and a rear patio with cement pavement and flower boxes.<sup>3</sup>

The facilities of the MOC Residence were fairly typical of a three-bedroom middle-class suburban house of the late 1920s. The unit was definitely the most spacious provided at the hospital and provided much more living space than the two duplex personnel buildings that were constructed along with it in 1929. A modest amount of additional space was added to the MOC Residence by the VA over the years. The main addition was the enclosure of the rear patio, converting this space into a second sunporch. Double doors were added to the north wall of the living room to allow traffic to flow between the sunporch and the living room. The date of the sunporch addition is not clear, since a later revised floor plan of the MOC Residence showing the sunporch addition is not dated.

The interior finishes of the MOC Residence, including wood floors and trim, were not updated by the VA. However, the kitchen and the main-floor bathrooms in the house were remodeled in the late 1960s or later and do not contain original cabinetry or fixtures. All of

---

<sup>1</sup> U.S. Veterans Bureau, *Medical Officer in Charge Residence No. 28. U.S. Veterans Hospital, Jefferson Barracks, Mo.*, 1929, on file at St. Louis VA Medical Center, Jefferson Barracks Division, Building 3T.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid.

the original wood double-hung six-over-six windows were replaced in favor of one-over-one vinyl windows in 1982.<sup>4</sup> On a 1990 VA facilities list, the MOC Residence was listed as the Director's Quarters.<sup>5</sup> Vinyl siding was also installed on the exterior of the building at an unknown date in the 1980s or 1990s. The building has been vacant for several years now and is scheduled for demolition in 2010 or 2011 to make way for the adjacent Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery to expand.

**Sources:**

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. *Annual Real Property Survey Report, Building Numbers and Locations, Jefferson Barracks VAMC*. 1990. On file at St. Louis VA Medical Center, Jefferson Barracks Division, Building 3T.

———. Construction drawing files for Building 28, 1929-2010. On file at St. Louis VA Medical Center, Jefferson Barracks Division, Building 3T.

———. *Medical Officer in Charge Residence No. 28. Veterans Administration, Jefferson Barracks, Mo.* Undated. On file at the St. Louis VA Medical Center, Jefferson Barracks Division, Building 3T.

U.S. Veterans Bureau. *Medical Officer in Charge Residence No. 28. U.S. Veterans Hospital, Jefferson Barracks, Mo.* 1929. On file at St. Louis VA Medical Center, Jefferson Barracks Division, Building 3T.

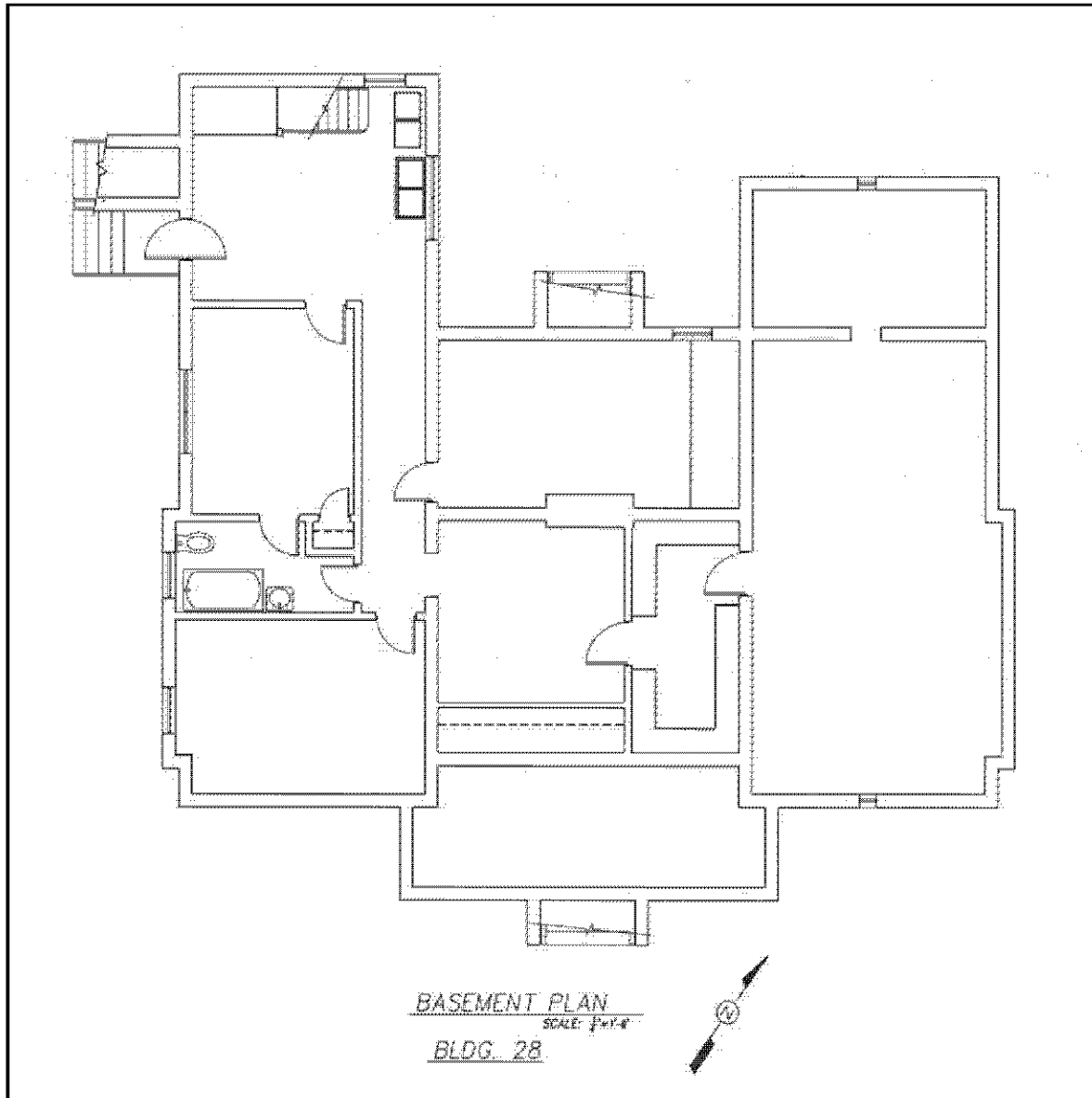
**Historians:**

Maria Burkett, Roy Hampton  
Hardlines Design Company  
4608 Indianola Avenue  
Columbus, Ohio 43214  
Tel: 614-784-8733  
Fax: 614-786-9336

---

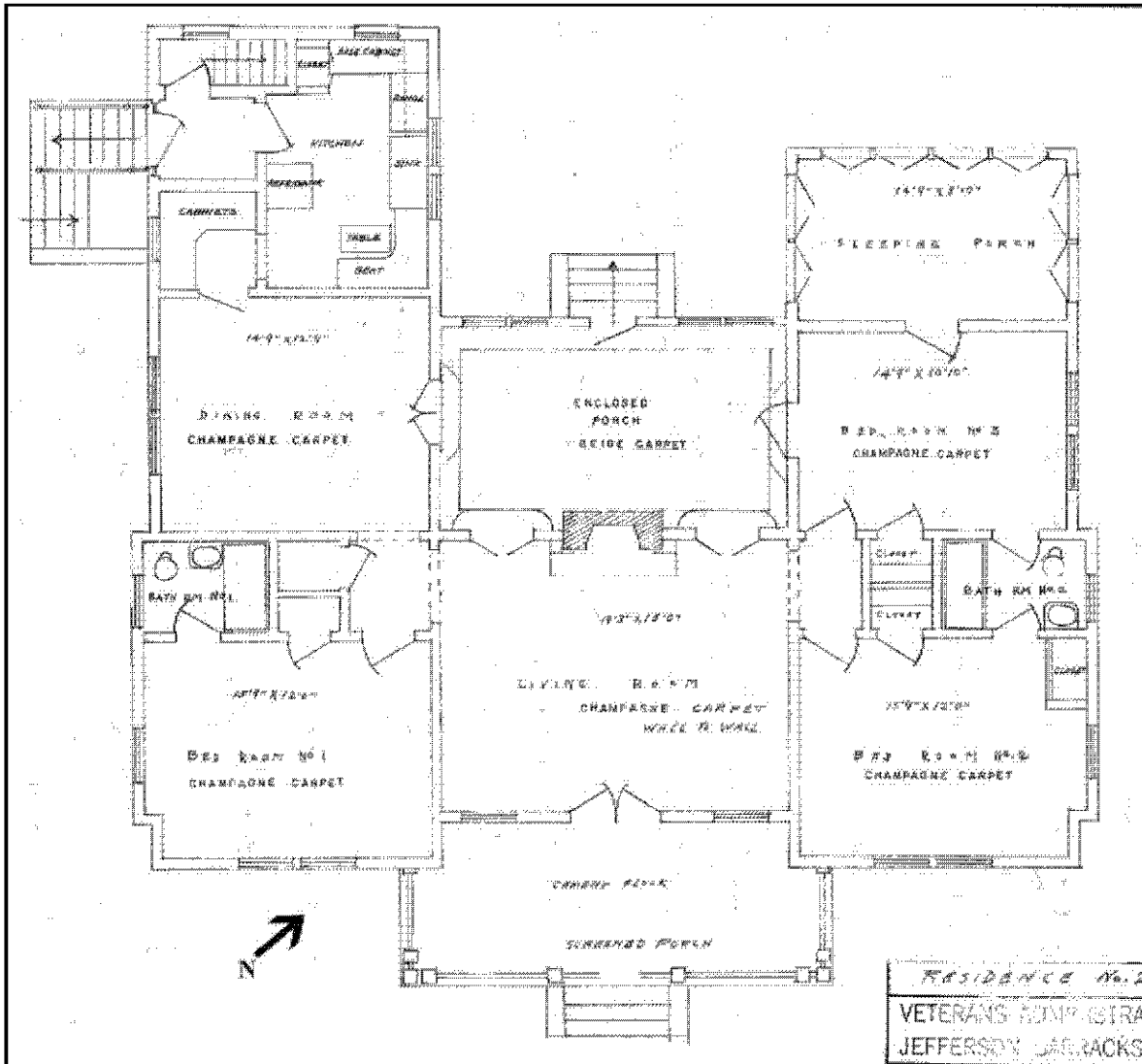
<sup>4</sup> U.S. Veterans Administration, Construction drawing files for Building 28, 1929-2010, on file at St. Louis VA Medical Center, Jefferson Barracks Division, Building 3T.

<sup>5</sup> U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, *Annual Real Property Survey Report, Building Numbers and Locations, Jefferson Barracks VAMC*, 1990, on file at St. Louis VA Medical Center, Jefferson Barracks Division, Building 3T.



Medical Officer in Charge Residence (Building 28), current basement floor plan

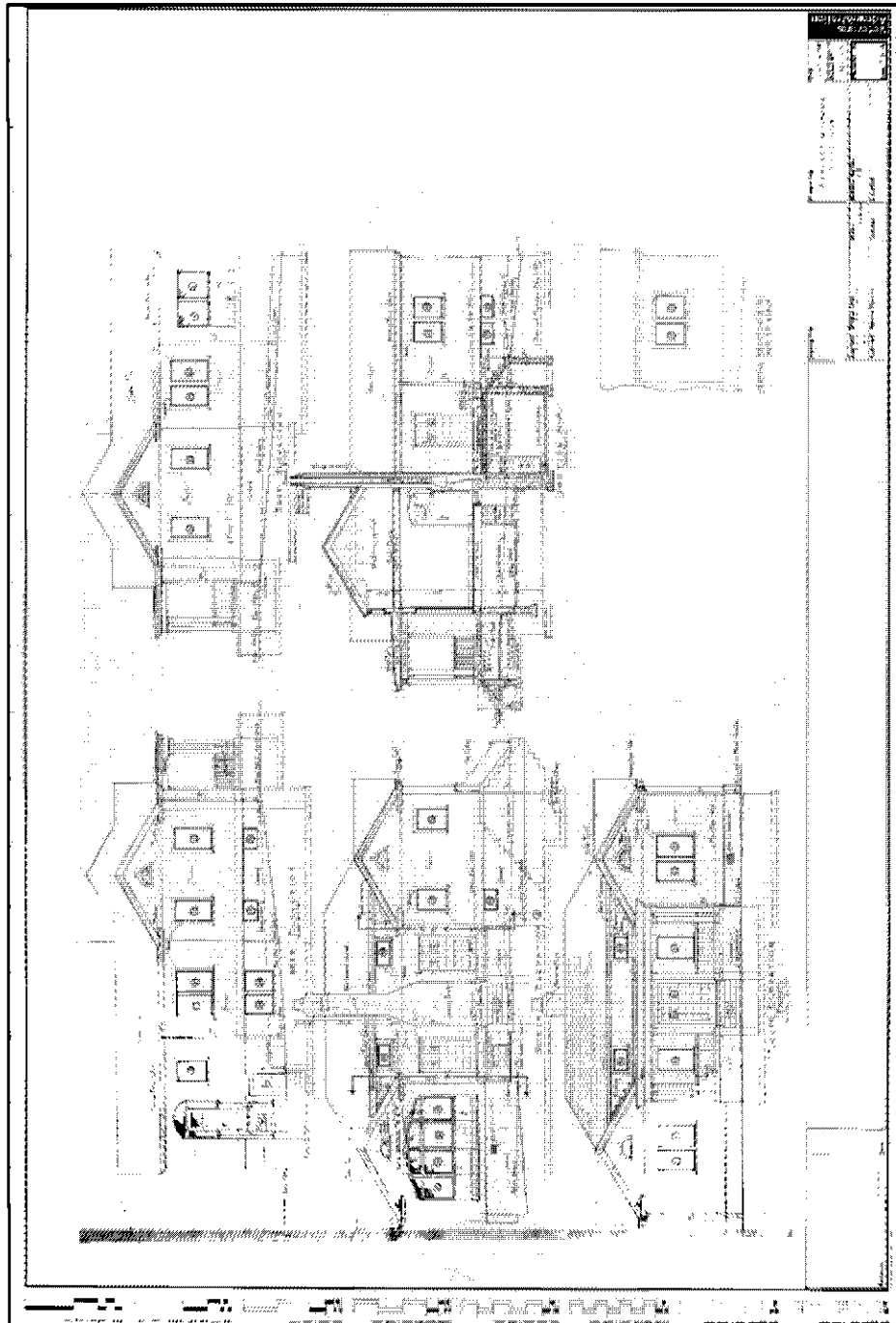
U.S. VETERANS HOSPITAL, JEFFERSON BARRACKS, MEDICAL OFFICER IN CHARGE RESIDENCE  
HABS No. MO-1943-O  
(Page 7)



Medical Officer in Charge Residence (Building 28), current floor plan of first floor

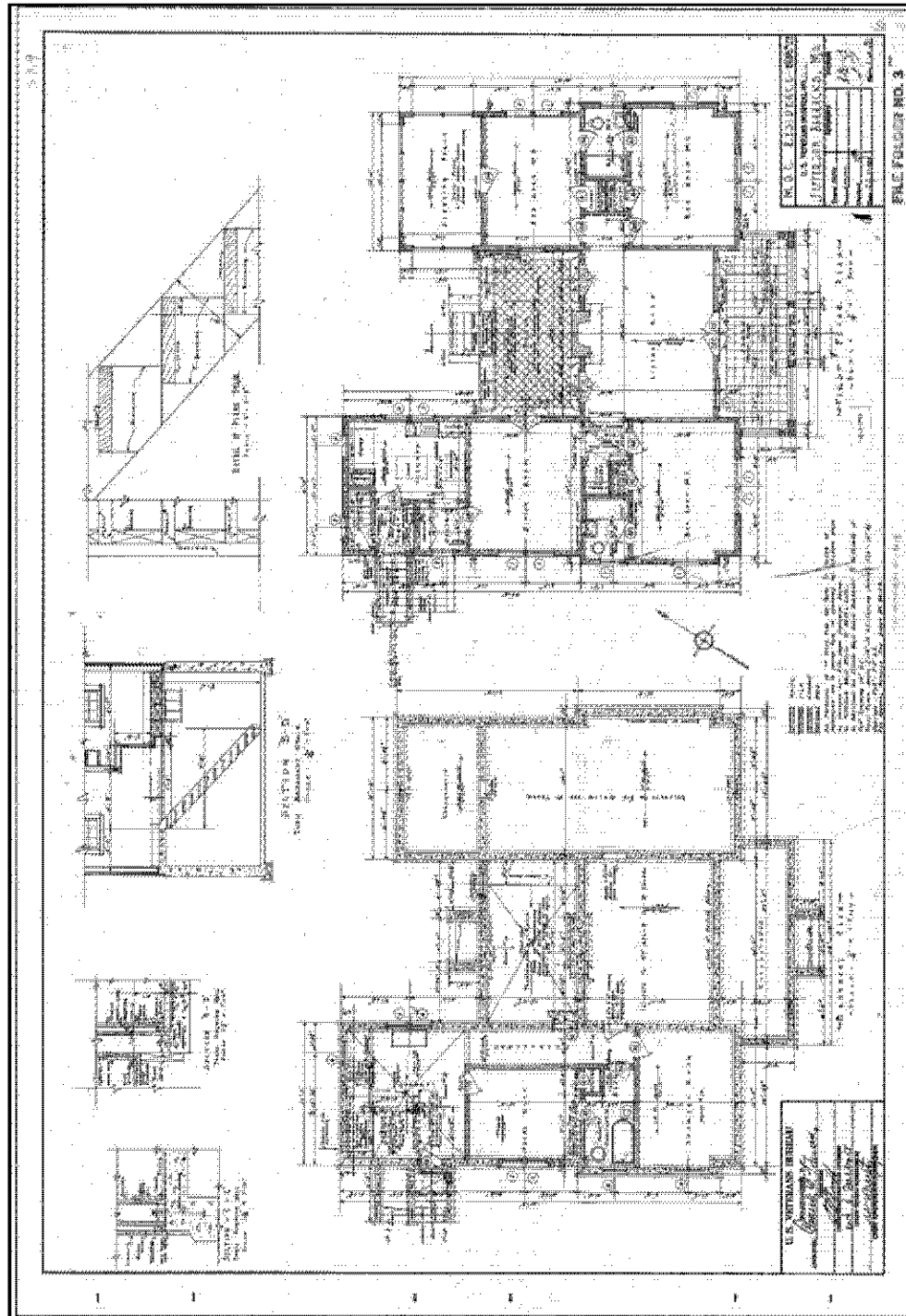


U.S. VETERANS HOSPITAL, JEFFERSON BARRACKS, MEDICAL OFFICER IN CHARGE RESIDENCE  
HABS No. MO-1943-O  
(Page 8)



Original elevations for the Medical Officer in Charge Residence (Building 28),  
1929 with 1982 revisions

U.S. VETERANS HOSPITAL, JEFFERSON BARRACKS, MEDICAL OFFICER IN CHARGE RESIDENCE  
HABS No. MO-1943-O  
(Page 9)



Original plans for the Medical Officer in Charge Residence (Building 28), 1929